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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1913.

# THE IMPRINT OF A MAN.

It is given to few men to affect New York City. That slant gathering of peoples from all ends of the earth, from all creeds, and of all degrees of spiritual sentiment, is not easily moved by the individual man. It is a place of masses. It is a leviathan, rumored to be without heart. It has almost the indifference of stolid nature. Its mountain-like buildings and its dark canyons are not impressed with the pigmy who challenges them. One man may influence this part of its life, this other may make his name known in its small ballistics, but who is big enough to make his spirit familiar to this nation that calls itself a city?

If the evidences of deep and spontaneous grief shown by the thousands on thousands who passed before William Jay Gaynor's coffin are true, this man, the Mayor of his people in fact, impressed the city by the very humanity of his own soul. Newspapers that have grown indifferent to the individual repeat the simple story of what was shown. Often we read of men who are temporary heroes in New York. They shine for an instant and vanish, swallowed up in the mass of emotion, striving, sin and victory that swells daily through the vast metropolis. The comments in the New York papers on Gaynor and his passing are written with a deeper reverence and a quieter knowledge than any we have read in years. The heart of the city was stirred.

Best of all is the assurance that this tribute, by people and by press, was given to the elemental man. It was Gaynor's personality, his strong human vigor and his own character that counted. His achievements as Mayor will be forgotten. His failures and his shortcomings will be overlooked. What will be remembered is that he was a man. He faced life squarely. He spoke his own speech and plowed his own furrow, and he fought and lived stoutly in his own way. There is much to be thankful for in this new proof of recognition for the individual man.

# ROOSEVELT IN 1913.

Is Theodore Roosevelt to be the candidate of a merged Republican party in 1916?

Reports from Washington declare that the impression among both Republican and Democratic politicians there is that he is. Old-line Republicans, who stood by Taft to the last ditch, and who have regarded Roosevelt as an unpardonable better, are saying that they believe that there will be but one candidate against President Wilson four years hence, and that he will be the Third Term. The feeling is that the regular and Progressive Republicans, like the failed self-disappointing snake, will assemble itself again. The possibility of a merger seems very real to the Washington peers. It seems to be the sentiment of the stalwarts that the proper slogan will be, "Anything to beat the Democrats," and they are getting themselves in shape to take their quinine without even the customary gelatinous coating.

It is said that the nomination of Roosevelt by a temporarily cohesive Republican party is regarded as an almost certain development by such loyal members of the Old Guard as Senatorsutherland, of Utah, and Bradley, of Kentucky, and by such Progressive Republicans as Senators Borah and Brantow, of Kansas. They are of opinion that the movement for coalition is near at hand, and that reunion under some new name is possible. Republicans of all descriptions vociferously miss the jury segments at the pie counter, and rare little about the tactics employed if only they can get into the smokehouse. Being in the minority is about as distasteful to a Republican as a diet of unripe persimmons is to a man lost in the woods.

Not that the old-line Republicans love Roosevelt any more than they used to. Expediency animates them, not preference. They would put their revenge in cold storage in the hope of some other opportunity to smash the Big Stick into kindling.

In the slang phrase of the day, the Democrats "should worry." The Democratic administration is daily strengthening itself in popular confidence and regard. Its leader has regained the respect and the trust of the people of the nation and will maintain it. The Democratic party will go to the country in 1916 with a record of solid achievement which will show up in the true light the quondam rebuttable assertions of noncommitment with which, for the best part of half a century, the Republicans flattered the American people. If the Republicans wish to put the Man on Horseback in the running in 1916, "Harko in will!"

Question for the day. Who is the lucky soul who eats the pie, cakes and preserves that win the blue ribbons at the fairs?

They go round and examine the children's teeth in school these days and send them to the dentist. Well wager that what they ought to do is to make some of these cowardly grown-ups get into the torture chair.

# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REFORMS.

One of the most aggressively agitated issues in Maryland is the proposal of Blair Lee, at present a member of its State Senate and probably its next United States Senator, to expedite legislation in such a way that there will be an opportunity to consider every bill offered in the Legislature. He proposes:

First. That all bills introduced in the first forty-five days of the session shall be reported by the committee to which they are referred not later than thirty days after their reference, and that all other bills shall be reported not later than ten days before the end of the session, provided that they are introduced at least fifteen days previous to that date. Maryland has a ninety-day session.

Second. That one-third of the members of the committee may compel a meeting of the committee at any time.

Third. That all votes in committee shall be recorded, and that the names of members voting for and against a report shall be indorsed on the bill itself and recorded in the journal.

Fourth. That committees shall be named by the members through a committee on committees, according to the method now used by the national House of Representatives.

The purpose of these proposals is to prevent bills from being buried in committee so that they cannot come up for consideration by the main body. Legislative committees often practice euthanasia upon measures which they do not wish the Legislature to discuss or pass upon. The bill is introduced and goes to committee, and the committee either postpones action on it until too late in the session or deliberately pigeonholes it for good. Public measures thus are privately and noiselessly executed. In such a case the committee usurps and misuses power which only the Legislature can rightfully exercise.

Complete publicity as to committee deliberations has long been urged by The Times-Dispatch. We have said repeatedly that the people have a right to know not just a part, but all about the transaction of their legislative business by the public servants whom they have chosen as their agents to attend to that business. Representative A. J. Montague favored this legislative reform in his campaign for his present seat, and discussed it at length before the people of the Third District. Delegate E. P. Cox, of Richmond, who is a candidate for the speakership of the House of Delegates, declares that he is "strongly in favor of open sessions of all committees," and that he "can see no reason why the people's business should be considered by committees behind closed doors." Further, he says that "bills offered in the General Assembly are public matters, and the reasons for and against their passage should have the widest publicity."

# THE USEFUL PHOTOGRAPH.

We are glad that the photographers of Virginia and the Carolinas are in such flourishing condition that they will have a convention in Richmond next week. This gathering will not be as large as some we welcome, but it will be full of human interest. The photographer combines the art side of life with the utilitarian. He is a very useful servant of the new society. In a way, he is the eyes of the nation. Through him, we not only see ourselves for better or for worse, but we also do much of our traveling and gain a lot of valuable information.

It is an encouraging sign to view the better kind of photographs our wisest camera men are giving us. The old photographer made pictures that were as stiff as their own cardboard mounts, and reflected not a whit of a man's personality. They made admirable scarecrows, and the terrible "family album" was justified because it furnished a sarcophagus in which these tragic remains could be secreted. Today, however, sophisticated papers, studied light effects, careful reproduction of characteristic poses or expressions, and a general dignity and aesthetic tone in pictures, make the counterfeit presentment a thing of beauty, even though the subject is not.

The higher art values of photography are not found only in great cities where secessionists and Cubists and the like reign. In many a show case through Virginia and Carolina one can find charming studies in portraits and scenery. These men of the lens and the plate are leaving a valuable record of their own times to a wistful posterity.

Add to this the increased use of pictures in commercial and news work, in advertising and education, in a host of other fields, and you catch some new lights on the descendants of Daguerre. Our booklets, our catalogues, our very shop windows are made informative and attractive by new and interesting photographs. We are grateful to the men who are both artists and artisans.

There is pathos in the question of the little shopgirl: "Doctor, did you ever live for six months on 20-cent dinners?" but even sadder is the plight of those folks who have to live on 20-cent dinners.

We'll forgive Edison for working when he's sick if he'll take the scratch out of the photograph record.

Anyhow, the Virginia Chautauqua circuit had all the papers in the country doing publicity work.

Apparently some people can forgive Mr. Bryan everything but making money.

We hope Richmond will not have any more of this London weather for Fashion Week.

They'll be calling bananas the "poor man's beefsteak," first thing we know.

# PROBE THE GAS QUESTION.

The Administrative Board was created in the interests of efficiency and economy for Richmond. As yet the board has done little toward a comprehensive plan to give Richmond better municipal service at a lower cost. It has straightened out a few small items of management, and devoted some time to expediting street construction. It has not investigated any one department with that detailed care and expert advice that would enable the board to recommend extensive improvements for the service of the citizen. It has never done any large work in a large constructive way.

Meanwhile, for some months, controversy about gas has been widespread. The price of gas, the quality of the service, the extension of this municipal enterprise into new fields, the financing of the business, and the problem of competition, all have engaged a lively public interest. Yet we seem no nearer a solution of these difficulties than a year ago. Indeed, they have recently become even more complicated than before.

Therefore, we respectfully suggest that the Administrative Board do at once undertake to probe the gas question to the bottom and settle it as far as lies in its power. We do not mean to advocate a superficial inquiry as to what Superintendent Knowles thinks, or a mild rebash of old data. We do mean that the board find out the facts in the gas problem, and print them for the benefit of the people and the Council. Let an expert gas engineer be employed to study our problems and make suggestions as to improvements. Let the financial history and present financial status of the whole plant be determined as closely as possible. Let the needs of the future and the probable demands made by annexed territory be studied. This information would be of profound value to the community.

Additional evidence that we must get definite facts on gas lies in the prolonged agitation for a lower rate to the consumer. This agitation is not founded on accurate technical information. It does, however, reflect a very real demand from the people. We do not believe that the board could show its usefulness to the average citizen in any more telling way than by getting at the meat of the gas problem.

# THE FIRST AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN.

To-day the first ambassador to Spain from the United States, Joseph E. Willard, of Virginia, begins his journey to the court of King Alfonso. The recent elevation of the representative of this country at Madrid to the highest diplomatic rank is a recognition of Spain as a first-class power. The compliment is no doubt most gratifying to the Spanish people, and should do much toward blotting out whatever vestige of ill-feeling remains there because of the "late unpleasantness of 1898" between the two countries.

The United States exchanges ambassadors with eleven other powers—Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Turkey and Spain. To other countries of measurable dignity envoys extraordinary and ministers are sent. The difference between a minister and ambassador is in official dignity and social position, rather than in the amount of power wielded. Before 1893 the United States was represented only by ministers of the second rank. This was due to a notion of Democratic simplicity which prevailed in this country. It was thought that the pomp and ceremony of embassies was inconsistent with our traditions of republican plainness.

Ambassador Willard is the third Virginian to represent this country at the court at Madrid, the others having been Hugh Nelson, in Monroe's administration, and J. L. M. Curry, in Cleveland's administration. A number of distinguished Americans have held the ministerial post, among them Charles Pinckney, Thomas Pinckney, John Forsyth, John H. Eaton, Pierre Soule, William Preston, Hannibal Taylor, Washington Irving, Carl Schurz, John P. Hale, Caleb Cushing, James Russell Lowell, Hannibal Hamlin, John W. Foster and Perry Belmont.

The only football casualties so far seem to be from sunstroke.

The only humans who have so far discovered the spring of eternal youth are Happy, Jimmie, Snookums, et al., of the colored "funnies."

The slit pocketbook is what worries father.

It's about time for these two-ton pumpkin and forty-foot cornstalk stories to break loose.

We don't know how to pronounce golf champion Ogilvie's name, but it ought to be "You Bet!"

The rarest article in New York town is the family circle.

Having decided nothing about annexation or the Union Station, we will now consider the gas question it ought to be cheap.

A Wisconsin man claims to have two hearts, but in no case would that be an excuse for his having two sweethearts.

In referring to one of the greatest of American universities, we said last week that it was one of the "mightiest educational forces in the world." The Lynchburg Advance flatters us by reproducing it, but puts us in jeopardy with the alumni of the institution in question by substituting an "a" for the "o" in "forces."

"New York Central Needs \$325,000."—Headline. Huh! so do lots of folks.

Many a college boy too proud to plow this summer is now furrowing the football field with his nose.

# ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

By ROY K. MOULTON.

More Headlines! We Will Never See Man Has Too Much Hard Coal; Is Giving It Away to Neighbors. Newspaper Reporter Passes Away. Leaving Fortune of Million Dollars.

Apartment Janitor Loved by Tenants. On Account of His Politeness.

Man Admits Wife Can Make Shortcake As Good as That Made by His Mother.

Politician Declines Complimentary Tickets On a Street Car Line.

Well-Known Husband Urges Wife To Buy an Expensive Spring Bonnet.

Prominent Automobileist Refuses To Talk About His New Machine.

# The Diary of a Housewife.

The next time they get up an amateur performance of "Pinafore" in our village for the benefit of charity it will be managed by somebody else, not by our Uncle Dudley. We have just closed one such performance, and I would rather manage a grand opera troupe for one season than a home talent aggregation for one night.

There was more artistic temperament wrapped up in our company than was possessed by all of the stars ever managed by Grau, Hammerstein and Gatti-Casazza combined. Little Buttercup and Josephine, two of our society leaders, scrapped over the star dressing-room at the village opyhouse until I was obliged to decide the question, and when I had decided it the decision was satisfactory to nobody, not even to myself. Dick Deadeye and Ralph Rackstraw besieged me for weeks, each trying to get his name at the top of the bills, and on the night of the performance I was not sure that more than one-third of my stars would appear. The dress rehearsal had engendered feeling that the decision was satisfactory to nobody, not even to myself. Dick Deadeye and Ralph Rackstraw besieged me for weeks, each trying to get his name at the top of the bills, and on the night of the performance I was not sure that more than one-third of my stars would appear. 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